

MINUTES  
TOWN OF MILLIS FIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
APRIL 24, 2014 7:30 pm ROOM 229  
900 MAIN ST. MILLIS MA 02054

Present:

Andrea Wagner

James McKay

Sean Doherty

Richard Nichols

Charles Aspinwall, ex officio

Chuck Adelsberger

Steve Cassidy

Susan Vara

Lisa Hardin

Ms. Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM and asked Mr. Adelsberger to update the board on the progress of the report.

Mr. Adelsberger reviewed the CDM recommended site for the High School baseball field which was in the Pine" area of the town park facing south. He also reviewed the cost estimates therefore. He noted that this orientation conflict the least with other fields.

Mr. Doherty reported that Mr. Baker was unable to attend but conveyed to him that he favored placing the high school field at the Cassidy property. Mr. Adelsberger replied that the field would likely be too wet for the high school field and that it might be appropriate for 1-2 youth baseball fields. The current baseball field is 300'. The costs presented do not include moving the playground.

Ms. Wagner asked if we do the CDM preferred location would we have to add another field. Mr. Adelsberger replied no.

Mr. McKay noted that there would be resistance to taking out the playground and bandstand. The town just spent \$120,000 in improving the area.

Mr. Doherty inquired whether the track proposed around the football field could be relocated to surround the town park and combine the football field layout with the baseball field thereby saving space. Mr. Adelsberger answered that the track would not fit in the park.

Mr. Aspinwall summarized the two potential layout choices. The first was the "Pine Area" recommended by CDM which if built would mean the loss of the bandstand and playground; the second was the Court Areas facing north, where the town would lose a smaller ball field and the tennis & basketball courts. The "Pine" area would accommodate a 350' field and would cost \$780,000 plus the relocation of the playground and bandstand. A 350' field over the court area would lose some parking and might encroach on the Sisto baseball field.

Ms. Vara suggested that the committee favor the placement of a 325' field over the court area saving the Sisto field.

Mr. Adelsberger suggested that keeping the original layout of the football field would allow a baseball field that could be used by girls softball adjacent to the football field.

Mr. Aspinwall said that the configuration suggested by Ms. Vara would mean that we do not have to build a field on the former Cassidy farm right away.

Ms. Wagner rhetorically stated what do we have to do to propose these to Town Meeting – the top three choices are the preliminary design of the high school improvements, the design of a synthetic turf surface at the Clyde Brown Field, and the installation of turf fields at Oak Grove Farm. It was noted that the Oak Grove fields would cost \$800,000 and the Clyde Brown fields up to \$1.2 million. Mr. Aspinwall answered a vote of the committee recommending so would start the process.

Ms. Hardin asked if a skating pond could be added to the mix of projects.

Richard Nichols made a motion to ask CDM to produce a plan that would put a 325' baseball field over the basketball & tennis court areas and relocate the AAA to the high school property. And reorient the existing high school football field slightly to accommodate the baseball field and place new basketball and tennis courts in the "Pine" area; seconded by Mr. McKay, vote 4-0 in favor.

Mr. Doherty suggested making the Selectmen aware of the 350' "Pine" area option. Ms. Wagner replied that we should support the chosen option just voted and inform the Selectmen due to the complications with other issues such as loss of the playground and bandstand that we favor the court area solution.

Mr. Doherty made a motion to recommend proceeding with the cost items as listed in the CDM memorandum less \$20,000 savings for a total of \$306,500, seconded by Andrea Wagner, vote 4-0 in favor.

Mr. Doherty made a motion to approve the 3/20/14, 3/27/14. And 4/10/14 minutes subject to clerical revisions on the room number and adding Kim Drakes last name to the attendee list. Vote, 4-0 in favor.

At 9:55 PM Mr. Doherty made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. McKay, vote 4-0 in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Charles Aspinwall